

## Calendar No. 618

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**S. 2912****[Report No. 109–338]**

To establish the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to establish the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2006

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. FEINGOLD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Reported by Mr. INHOFE, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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**A BILL**

To establish the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to establish the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Coordina-  
5       tion and Oversight Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **COLLABORATION.**—The term “Collabora-  
4 tion” means the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration  
5 established by section 4(a).

6 (2) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**—The term “Exec-  
7 utive Committee” means the Great Lakes Regional  
8 Collaboration Executive Committee established by  
9 section 4(b).

10 (3) **EXECUTIVE ORDER.**—The term “Executive  
11 Order” means Executive Order 13340 (33 U.S.C.  
12 1268 note; relating to establishment of Great Lakes  
13 Interagency Task Force and promotion of regional  
14 collaboration of national significance for Great  
15 Lakes).

16 (4) **GREAT LAKE.**—The term “Great Lake”  
17 means—

18 (A) Lake Erie;

19 (B) Lake Huron (including Lake Saint  
20 Clair);

21 (C) Lake Michigan;

22 (D) Lake Ontario;

23 (E) Lake Superior; and

24 (F) the connecting channels of those  
25 Lakes, including—

26 (i) the Saint Marys River;

- 1 (ii) the Saint Clair River;  
2 (iii) the Detroit River;  
3 (iv) the Niagara River; and  
4 (v) the Saint Lawrence River to the  
5 Canadian border.

6 (5) GREAT LAKES TRIBE.—The term “Great  
7 Lakes Tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, village,  
8 nation, or other organized group or community in  
9 the watershed basin of a Great Lake that is recog-  
10 nized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as eligible for  
11 the special programs and services provided by the  
12 United States to Indians because of their status as  
13 Indians.

14 (6) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”  
15 means the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force es-  
16 tablished by section 3.

17 **SEC. 3. GREAT LAKES INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

18 (a) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Great  
19 Lakes Interagency Task Force, as established by the Ex-  
20 ecutive Order 13340 for administrative purposes, is estab-  
21 lished as a task force within the Environmental Protection  
22 Agency.

23 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties described in  
24 the Executive Order, the Task Force shall—

1           (1) ensure that implementation of programs  
2           and projects under the authority of Task Force  
3           members is coordinated, effective, and cost-efficient;

4           (2) submit to Congress a biennial report that  
5           describes the projects and activities carried out by  
6           the Collaboration during the 2-year period covered  
7           by the report, including a description of—

8                   (A) any actions that Federal agencies can  
9                   take to address the biennial restoration goals;

10                   (B) Federal expenditures to meet the res-  
11                   toration goals and the amount of non-Federal  
12                   funding leveraged by those Federal expendi-  
13                   tures; and

14                   (C) the indicators and monitoring used to  
15                   determine whether the goals will be met;

16           (3) establish a regular means of communication  
17           with the Executive Committee to exchange informa-  
18           tion and recommendations for action; and

19           (4) ensure that the activities of the Task Force  
20           are coordinated with the activities of the Lake  
21           Champlain Basin Program.

22 **SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION.**

23           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Great  
24           Lakes Regional Collaboration.

25                   (1) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (A) COMPOSITION.—The Collaboration  
2 shall be composed of—

3 (i) the members of the Executive  
4 Committee; and

5 (ii) each other individual or entity  
6 that notifies the Executive Committee, in  
7 writing, of the desire and intent of the in-  
8 dividual or entity to participate in the Col-  
9 laboration.

10 (B) BALANCED REPRESENTATION OF  
11 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—The Collaboration  
12 shall have a balanced representation of inter-  
13 ested stakeholder groups, including—

14 (i) members of academia;

15 (ii) municipalities;

16 (iii) nongovernmental organizations;

17 (iv) property owners;

18 (v) recreational boaters;

19 (vi) recreational fisheries;

20 (vii) representatives of environmental  
21 interests; and

22 (viii) representatives of industry.

23 (2) DUTIES OF THE COLLABORATION.—Not  
24 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of  
25 this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Collabora-

1       tion shall draft a strategy using the best available  
2       science—

3               (A) to describe the health of the Great  
4       Lakes; and

5               (B) to identify Great Lakes restoration  
6       goals.

7       (b) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—

8               (1) COMPOSITION.—The Executive Committee  
9       shall be composed of—

10              (A) the Chairperson of the Task Force;

11              (B) a representative of the Council of  
12       Great Lakes Governors, as agreed upon by the  
13       Governors;

14              (C) a representative of the Great Lakes  
15       and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative, as agreed  
16       upon by the majority of mayors of those cities;  
17       and

18              (D) a designated representative of the  
19       Great Lakes Tribes, as agreed upon by those  
20       Tribes.

21       (c) DUTIES.—The Executive Committee shall—

22              (1) establish a process for communicating with  
23       the members of the Collaboration;

1           (2) work with the members of the Collaboration  
2           to develop a strategy for the restoration of the Great  
3           Lakes as required in subsection (a)(2);

4           (3) after completing the strategy, develop a list  
5           of short-term and long-term goals and identify the  
6           level of government that is best able to achieve each  
7           goal;

8           (4) hold semiannual public meetings to dis-  
9           cuss—

10                   (A) Great Lakes restoration goals; and

11                   (B) the progress in carrying out those  
12           goals;

13           (5) receive input and consider recommendations  
14           relating to the proposed goals described in para-  
15           graph (3) from interested stakeholder groups de-  
16           scribed in subsection (a)(1)(B);

17           (6) submit to the Congress and the Task Force  
18           a biennial report that includes—

19                   (A) an analysis of progress in—

20                           (i) carrying out the restoration of the  
21                   Great Lakes; and

22                           (ii) meeting the goals and the rec-  
23                   ommendations of the strategy developed by  
24                   the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration  
25                   and under this Act; and

1 (B) contributions made by—

2 (i) Great Lakes States;

3 (ii) municipal partners; and

4 (iii) Great Lakes Tribes; and

5 (7) ensure that—

6 (A) the Collaboration has a balanced rep-  
7 resentation of interested stakeholder groups de-  
8 scribed in subsection (a)(1)(B); and

9 (B) the strategy developed by the Collabo-  
10 ration is coordinated with the activities of the  
11 Lake Champlain Basin Program.

12 (d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The members of the Execu-  
13 tive Committee may designate representatives to work as  
14 1 or more subcommittees to provide staff support and oth-  
15 erwise assist in carrying out responsibilities of the Execu-  
16 tive Committee relating to the Collaboration.

17 **SEC. 5. EFFICIENCY EVALUATIONS OF COMMITTEES AND**  
18 **OFFICES.**

19 ~~The Administrator of the Environmental Protection~~  
20 ~~Agency shall evaluate each committee and office that over-~~  
21 ~~sees a Great Lakes program—~~*The Administrator of the*  
22 *Environmental Protection Agency shall evaluate each com-*  
23 *mittee of which the Administrator is a member and each*  
24 *office within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protec-*  
25 *tion Agency that oversees a Great Lakes program—*



- 1           (1) to identify overlapping duties; and
- 2           (2) to develop recommendations to improve the
- 3           efficiency of those committees and offices.

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